In November 1969 I visited the National Fitness Council Camp at Point Peron, where Pat and Howard Milne were holding a camp for native children from the Cundeelee Mission. In the morning the tide was very low, exposing extensive sand flats. Groups of waders were feeding along the shore. Among the flocks were Knots, Little Stints, Grey-tailed Tattlers (3), Bar-tailed Godwits (several), Curlew Sandpipers and six curlews.

Our presence disturbed the birds, which flew out to sea. However two birds separated from the main flock of waders and flew back past me. Their large down-curved bills and large body size immediately identified them as curlews. As the birds flew only ten yards away they turned in front of me, exposing the back and rump. The rump was white and appeared to extend up the back—this is a diagnostic feature of the European Curlew.

I submit this record not as a proven sighting but to alert observers to the possible occurrence of this bird in Western Australia. Deignan was quite confident in accepting the white rump as a decisive identification: "I have no hesitation in affirming that this easily identified bird should be added to the Australian list: it is as large and as long-billed as *N. madagascariensis*, but differs at a glance by its white rump patch."

—BRIAN HUTCHISON, Woodlands

Association between the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and *Pandanus*.—One of the collections of *Pandanus de-Lestangii* Martelli in the Queensland Herbarium is a staminate sheet dated 6 November 1926 which bears a letter from the collector, Albert de Lestang. H. St. John, in Part 23 of his Revision of the Genus *Pandanus* Stickman *(Pacific Science,* 21, 1967 : 523-530), quotes part of this letter, including the following details:

> 'Thousands of White Cockatoos *(Cacatua galerita)* systematically comb the *Pandanus* for syncarps, beginning in February they tear down each drupe in quest of a kind of fly larvae which, I think, are solely associated with this fruit. The greater part of the drupes fall in the water below where herds of turtles [Chelidae] gluttonously swallow whole the falling drupes; those falling up the banks are not lost either, for when all the *Pandanus* are clean of syncarps the cockatoos search the ground carefully for the dry nuts and with their powerful beak crush and extract the edible parts.'

The late Albert de Lestang was an amateur naturalist who gathered abundant material and recorded good data (St. John, *loc. cit* : 526). According to Mr. Selwyn Everist, Government Botanist, Queensland Herbarium *(in litt.),* he was a Frenchman who lived in somewhat feudal style on a small property, Adel's Grove, on Lawn Hill Creek about 90 miles south-west of Burketown, north-western Queensland. He established what he called a Botanic Garden and from this valley collected an extraordinary variety of plants. His specimens of *Pandanus de-Lestangii* were from this area. (Although St. John quotes from the label of the holotype 'growing under palms along perennial streams about 200 miles south-west of Burketown,' C. T. White, in a letter to Martelli dated 27 November 1925, wrote of the holotype '. . . the specimen I believe was collected over 100 miles to the south-west of Burketown . . .'; certainly, 200 miles south-west places us in the Northern Territory, on the cracking blacksoil plains of Gallipoli).

J. Forshaw *(Australian Parrots,* 1969 : 87) does not mention *Pandanus* spp. in his discussion of the feeding habits of *Cacatua galerita.* It is probable, however, that the eating of Pandanus syncarps (and whatever insect larvae they contain) is a widespread practice with this cockatoo. In mid-July 1968, in pandanus-eucalypt woodland at Tortilla Flats on the Adelaide River, NT (13° 05'S., 131° 13'E.) I noted a small group of *Cacatua galerita* feeding on these fruits, and in early August 1968, in similar habitat at McColl's Bore on the Armstrong River, NT (*ca.* 16° 39'S,. 131° 51'E.), I recorded this feeding behaviour on three occasions. Other observers must surely have further records tucked away in their notebooks.

—SHANE A. PARKER, Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs, N.T.